

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 10th OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT: COUN. R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J Black,
S McDonnell & M Milsom

Messrs: J Hardy, D Milsom, W M Jeffrey,
R Huitson, C Austin, J Alvey,
H Bennett MBE, C Watkins,
T Jones, C J Metcalfe &
D Langan

**MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO
DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST, PREJUDICIAL OR
PERSONAL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF
CONDUCT.**

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- C Robbins (holiday) and E W Hall (ill).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

26. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

27. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Member's were advised of the following works being carried out by the Parks Department:-

a) Football Pitches

Pitch One at Helford Road had been repaired following slight damage from the Peterlee Show.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) Bowling Greens

The Bowling Greens at Lowhills Road and Eden Lane had been scarified, spiked, seeded and top dressed.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) Cricket

The cricket square at Helford Road had been scarified, spiked, seeded and top dressed.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) Play Areas

Daily checks and repairs continued to be carried out in the play areas. There were no major problems.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

e) Woodhouse Park

Four litter bins had been placed around the Skate Park to alleviate the litter problems in the area. The future job fund personnel continued to carry out various training courses and also monitor the Park.

Routine seasonal maintenance was being carried out at the moment. The number of people using the crazy golf had increased from 100 no. during 2010 to just over 500 no. in 2011. Another 'Friends Of' Group meeting had taken place, a copy of the last minutes had been circulated to Members for their information. The gents toilet had been vandalised, the hand basin being broken, repairs were carried out, in the mean time the disabled toilet was being used as the gents toilet.

Members expressed concern at the vandalism and reiterated that the Police and PCSO's needed to be notified and kept informed of any incidents.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

f) Skate Park

A Skate Park Competition would take place on Thursday 27th October during the half term holidays, this was being organised jointly with Peterlee Town Council and Peterlee Youth Project Team.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

g) Seasonal Bedding

All summer bedding plants were being taken out and winter bedding would be planted week commencing 10th October.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

h) ITeC Site

This area had received the second grass cut to keep this area maintained and to a reasonable standard.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

i) Shotton Hall

The majority of material brought down by the recent gales had been cleared. Also, areas around the pond had been cleared to enable better inspections of this area to take place.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

j) Cemetery

There had been 2 burials for September and one burial of ashes.

Future Planned Work

To concrete raft installation for headstones and the purchase of a new set of grave mats.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

k) 'Friends of ' Group

The main topic of conversation was about the number of motorcycles and quad bikes driving across the grass areas behind Cheviot and Cleveland Place.

The Police advised that they knew about this problem and were dealing with it, that they had confiscated a number of these bikes within the Peterlee area and that they had been crushed. He urged everyone to report any sightings of these bikes to the street wardens or to the Police as regular as possible to enable them to build up a pattern of activity allowing them to plan future operations to catch the offenders.

The meeting continued to discuss the need to form a constituted group as this would enable the Friends Group to plan better for the future and also hopefully enable the group to raise funds for additions or improvements in the Park.

RECOMMENDED that the Constitution used for the Helford Road Friends Of Group be also used for this Group, with the necessary minor amendments being implemented.

- b) The Crazy Golf was the next topic to be discussed with regard to the opening hours and manning of it. To enable the Parks staff to do other duties within the park the Parks Development Officer asked if it could be considered if members of the Group could man the crazy golf and maybe charge a small amount to play, the payments could be put towards possible upgrades of the equipment as it was well used during the summer months.

RECOMMENDED that this suggestion be agreed in principal, subject to the Parks Development Officer preparing a detailed Report for Members.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that financial controls be in place and monitored, numbered tickets to be issued.

- c) Could the community building be utilised more on an evening or weekends with such activities, e.g. kids birthday parties, coffee mornings, kids Saturday clubs (under 10's), mothers clubs or even as a café, a member of the group would be interested in doing this.

The Parks Development Officer suggested that the summer school holidays would be an ideal period on a trial basis, as would be light nights.

RECOMMENDED that this suggestion be agreed to, in principal, the Parks Development Office devise a scheme for Member's consideration.

28. REQUEST FROM TENANTS OF NUMBERS 1 – 4 OLAMAN WALK FOR A GATE

A letter of request had been received from the tenant of the above address, a copy of which had been circulated to Member's for their consideration.

A Member advised that the Cemetery Officer had telephoned three local Taxi Companies, i.e. (Red Stripe, Chevron & Phillips), with regard to the complaints received from these residents.

The Deputy Town Clerk had contacted the Durham Aged Miners Association who advised they had received no complaints from their tenants on this matter.

RECOMMENDED that;

i) the request for a gate to be installed at this location, be declined, as it was not the Town Council's responsibility.

ii) letters be sent to the three local Taxi Companies about their driver's unacceptable behaviour .

29. TO RECEIVE SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET HEADING FOR 2011/12

(i) Summary Income and Expenditure up to 31st August 2011, with wages costs up to 31st July 2011

A copy of the above correspondence had been circulated to allow sufficient time to read, prior to the Special Council Meeting.

(ii) To agree a date for a Special Meeting

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk put forward at the Council Meeting a choice of dates for a Special Meeting of the Council to be convened.

30. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PERSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

31. DTA – CONSULTANCY FEES

RECOMMENDED that this item be considered at the Council Meeting.